Slide 1 (Chris)

“Analyze the most prominent conspiracy theories surrounding the JFK assassination.”

Slide 2 (Chris)

Picture of Kennedy, wife Jackie, Governor Connelly, and his wife minutes before the assassination

Slide 3 (Ashley)

Friday November 22nd, in Dallas, Texas, while on tour through the city, Kennedy was fired upon for 8.5 seconds. A total of 3 shots was officially announced, the first missing Kennedy, the second striking Kennedy in the neck, and passing through to hit Connelly, eventually lodging itself in Connelly’s thigh. The third and final bullet hit Kennedy in the back-right of his head, exploding his skull, sending brain, bone, and tissue fragments flying everywhere. Kennedy and the members of the limo were rushed to Parkland Hospital, where just 30 minutes after the shooting had occurred, president Kennedy was declared dead.

Slide 4 (Ashley)

Picture of Kennedy dead at Parkland Hospital

Slide 5 (Chris)

Zapruder originally want planning on bringing his recorder, but his assistant’s insistence made him go back to his house to get it. Zapruder officially handed over his tape on the condition that it would be used for the investigation of the assassination. The film today sits in the Sixth Floor Museum, a museum dedicated to the history of the Kennedy assassination.

Slide 6 (Chris)

3 big theories are the lone gunman theory, multiple gunman theory, and the USSR/Cuba planned his assassination.

Slide 7 (Ashley)

The Lone Gunman Theory states that Lee Harvey Oswald was the one and only person to kill President Kennedy. He shot him 3 times with a Carcano rifle. The first one missed, the second one hit him through the back of his neck, and the third shot hit him in the right side on the back of his head. The second shot that was fired, or the first shot that hit the president, also hit Governor Connelly in the back which came out under his right nipple, hit his right wrist, and finally stuck in his thigh where it left a severe wound. He was injured, but not killed. This was the official report of the Warren Commission in September of 1964, after a 10 month long investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Slide 8 (Ashley)

One strength of this theory was the bullet that was fired matched the rifle that was found where Oswald had been hiding. There was also proof that the hidden rifle was registered in his name. Witnesses around also claimed to have seen Oswald fire the shots. However, some weaknesses were that it was impossible to fire the three shots on his own as fast and as accurately as he did. Also, Oswald would not admit to the shooting, and two days later while be transferred to jail in Dallas County, he was shot by Jack Ruby.

Slide 9 (Chris)

The Multiple Gunman Theory states that Oswald was not the only man to have shot Kennedy. The men were said to have been hiding under the underpass or in a grassy knoll waiting for him to drive by. Some claim that where the bullet landed, there was no way Oswald could have shot it from where he was hiding. The Zapruder film is said to have shown at least one bullet being shot from the front. The windshield was cracked, and in the way it was, it proves that a bullet was shot from the front. This was the theory presented by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, who after reviewing the work of the Warren Commission on their investigation, headed their own investigation and found the Warren Commission’s results “inconclusive”.

Slide 10 (Chris)

The strengths that prove this theory are also the weaknesses which prove the Lone Gunman Theory to be true. There was not enough time for Oswald to shoot the three shots as accurately as he did, which means there must have been at least one other man involved. Even if there was enough time, his positioning could not have hit Kennedy’s neck well enough for it to go right through to also hitting Connelly. Again, there was shown to have been a shot from the front, which was not where Oswald was hiding. However, not enough witnesses claimed to have seen another gunman, only Oswald. There were also no recordings of two or more men, and there was no real proof besides the cracked windshield and head explosion patterns.

Slide 11 (Chris)

One of the theories states that the KGB picked up Oswald while he was in the USSR, found him to be sympathetic to their cause, and recruited him into their ranks. Years later, the KGB called upon Oswald to carry out his duty, assassination JFK.

Another theory states that after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, and the attempt on his life, Castro was seeking revenge against Kennedy. Castro learned of Oswald from an unknown source, and brought him in to see him for himself. Oswald pledged allegiance to communism, and to Castro, and Castro sent him back. Years later, it was Castro, not the KGB , that sent Oswald in to kill Kennedy.

Slide 12 (Chris)

Only possible proof of this is a document received by the FBI from a source within the KGB. It says that the USSR almost certainly had a role in Kennedy’s death. Otherwise, there is nothing on the film, or any physical evidence to suggest that Kennedy was assassinated by the USSR or Castro.

Slide 13 (Ashley)

Out of all these theories, from all the proof, the Lone Gunman is the most likely theory to have happened. However, we disagree with everyone else, and think that the Multiple Gunman Theory was the one which really happened that day. It is just as likely, if not more, than the Lone Gunman Theory, and has way too many coincidences. The diagrams of the assassination show the lines of sight, the crack on the front of the windshield, the explosion pattern on Kennedy’s head, and the puff of smoke and flash of light the witnesses claimed to have seen. All of this commotion and proof could not have easily been done with just one person which is why we think Oswald was not the only killer.